

Appl. No. 10/754,323
Amdt. dated September 17, 2009
Supplemental Amendment

REMARKS

Claims 2-7, 10-12 are currently pending.

Applicant wants to express gratitude to the Examiner for the Interview held Wednesday, September 16, 2009. At the Interview claims were reviewed to make more clear the invention of the claims in light of previously cited prior art.

Dunn, U.S. Pat. No. 4,601,153 ("Dunn.") Dunn does not show, teach nor suggest the improvement of claim 10. To the extent Dunn shows a locking latch 40 on its connector 31, such locking latch is straight and at a direct angle (e.g., Figure 3 of Dunn) and so like the prior art characterized in the present application's Figure 3a. Thus independent claim 10 and the remaining dependent claims define away from Dunn as the locking latch here has a radius in the form of an arc.

Beynon, U.S. Pat. No. 3,921,363 ("Beynon.") Beynon does not show, teach nor suggest the improvement of claim 10. Beynon has a detent or barb 19 with a locking shoulder 20 retained in a slot in a main beam (e.g., Figures 3 and 5 of Beynon.) There is no pass through of the shoulder 20 in Beynon. Thus Beynon lacks a locking latch with a radius in a form of an arc, straight portion and end. Beynon's barb 19 and shoulder 20 of Beynon are deemed to be like the locking latch of the claims, Beynon lacks an end of a locking latch passing entirely through a slot and retained on an opposing side of the main beam from the cross beam.

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Thus independent claim 10 and the remaining dependent claims define away from Beynon as there is no locking latch nor radius in the form of an arc nor end of a locking latch passing entirely through a slot.

Brown, U.S. Pat. No. 4,161,856 ("Brown.") Brown does not show, teach nor suggest the improvement of claim 10. To the extent Brown shows a locking latch 37 on its connector 22, such locking latch is straight and at a direct angle (e.g., Figure 7 of Brown) and so like the prior art characterized in the present application's Figure 3a. Thus independent claim 10 and the remaining dependent claims define away from Brown as the locking latch here has a radius in the form of an arc.

The remaining principle references that have been cited throughout the file history similarly have, to the extent any of them can be characterized as having a locking latch, a locking latch with a straight angle and so lack the limitation of the locking latch having a radius in the form of an arc. In summary Ziegler U.S. Pat. No. 5,839,246 has a straight locking latch; Purdy, U.S. Pat. No. 3,321,879 has a straight locking latch; Cubbler U.S. Pat. No. 3,979,974 appears to have no locking latch, if it does, such is straight, and any such does not pass through a slot as here; Sauer, U.S. Pat. 4,317,641 has a straight locking latch. Other notable differences are referred to in Applicant's prior responses and incorporated by reference here.

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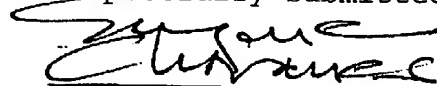
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Accordingly, and in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the presently claimed invention.

17 September
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Respectfully submitted,



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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